

REMARKS

Claims 1-41 are pending in this application, of which claims 12-21 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 22-41 have been newly added. Reconsideration of the rejections in view of these amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 USC §102(b)

Claims 1, 2 and 4-11 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by figure 12 of acknowledged prior art (APA).

Claims 1 and 3-11 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Koga (U.S. Patent No. 5,727,008).

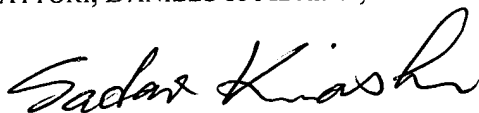
Applicant's arguments were submitted in the Remarks of the response filed on November 19, 2003.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully Submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sadao Kinashi".

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